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PROGRAM The Today Show

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NBC Network

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CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Senator Nunn Comments on Noriega Charges

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JOHN PALMER: There also has been an overnight development concerning Panama, and we want to question Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, about that, first of all.

Senator, what about these reports that the strongman in Panama is involved there in drug-trafficking, perhaps even murder? What have you heard there about that?

SENATOR SAM NUNN: John, there have been a number of classified discussions on the situation in Panama over the years, going way back to the Panama Canal debate. I'm not able to give much light on that here in public. But suffice it to say that the charges are serious ones, they are ones that need to be looked at very carefully by our top governmental officials, and they certainly do have implications for both regional and U.S. security.

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PALMER: Senator, you saw Marvin Kalb's report a short while ago. Is there anything in there you would quarrel with?

SENATOR NUNN: Well, I don't want to be put in a position of confirming or denying. I'm not privy to all of that information. I know some of it, and a good bit of what I know is classified. So I'd rather not comment yes or no on that, except to say that the charges are disturbing.

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